As suitable candidates were not available, Secretary, North Eastern Council was entrusted the additional charge of Chairman, Brahmaputra Board with the approval of the Cabinet. Since the transfer of the incumbent holding the post of Secretary, North Eastern Council in January, 1993, the Vice Chairman of Brahmaputra Board is exercising and discharging the duties of Chairman, Bhahmputra Board.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Brahmaputra Board is functioning effectively and does not need to be reconstituted.

Flood control in Assam

6189. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given any priority towards flood control in Assam and adjoining areas keeping in view the horrible situation arising from floods every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof with programmes drawn up and financial outlay fixed for the current year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) The Union Government have given priority towards flood control in Assam and adjoining areas by setting up the Brahmaputra Board in December, 1981 which has prepared Master Plans for flood management in respect of the Brahmaputra, Barak and its tributaries. These Master Plans have been sent to Assam and other North Eastern States and Central agencies for taking further steps leading to implementation. In addition to the outlay of Rs. 20.00 crore from the State's plan funds, Central Loan Assistance to the tune of Rs. 25 crore is envisaged for release to Assam for flood control during the current financial year.

(c) Does not arise.

Pending proposals of Brahmaputra Flood Control Board

6190. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain proposals submitted by the Brahmaputra Flood Control Board long back are still pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details of these proposals with the date of submission in each case;

(c) whether Government propose to take some steps to clear the pending proposals for smooth development of the concerned regions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Study by National Water Development Agency on Water Resources

6191. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Water Development Agency was to undertake studies on water transfer links for water resources development in the country;

(b) if so, when was this Agency set up and with what aims and objectives;

(c) whether the Agency has completed the work assigned to it and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof and the time by which it is likely to complete the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) A National Perspective for Water Resources Development prepared by Government envisages inter-linkages between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers separately for transfer of water from water rich basins to water short basins for optimum utilisation of water resources. National Water Development Agency was established in 1982 initially for firming up of the proposals of Peninsular component of National Perspective. In 1990 National Water Development Agency was entrusted with the task of firming up of proposals of Himalayan component of National Perspective. The objectives of the Agency are:

(i) To promote scientific development for optimum utilisation of water resources in the country.

(ii) To carry out detailed field surveys and investigation of the possible storage reservoir sites and inter connecting links in order to establish feasibility of the proposal of Peninsular River Development and Himalayan Rivers Development Component of National Perspective for Water Resources Development.

(iii) To carry out detailed studies about quantum of water in various Peninsular Rivers systems and Himalayan Rivers systems and which can be transferred to other basins|states after meeting reasonable needs of basin states in the foreseeable future.

(iv) To prepare detailed project feasibility reports of various components of the scheme relating to Peninsular River Development and Himalayan River Development.

(c) and (d) A total of 36 water transfer links, 17 under Peninsular component and 19 under Himalayan component have been identified by National Water Development Agency.

While office studies of 13 links under Peninsular component have been completed, studies of balance Peninsular links and all links under Himalayan component have been included in VIII Plan. In addition, investigation of 9 links of Peninsular component and 3 links of Himalayan component have been included in the VIII Plan Programme of the Agency.

Polluted rivers in the country

6192. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some rivers of the country are polluted;

(b) if so, the names of such rivers;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action to remove this pollution from the rivers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under the Union Ministry of Environment & Forests had conducted studies and identified 19 grossly polluted stretches of 13 major riaers and 14 comparatively less polluted stretches of 9 rivers. A statement indicating names of such rivers and the polluted stretches in enclosed. (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Stretches of river Ganga and its major tributaries namely Yamuna (including Hindon), Gomati and Damodar have been included in Ganga Action Plan, Phase-II. The remaining identified stretches are to be covered under the National River Action Plan.